

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 24, 2022

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Thirty-First Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2919 SD1 Relating to Disability Health Disparity

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB2919 SD1**, which requires the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to submit a report focused on the health disparities experienced by individuals with disabilities in Hawaii to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2023.

As we know from national statistics Individuals with Intellectual and or developmental disabilities (I/DD) are more at risk for sexual violence, health issues, unemployment, and other societal disparities. An issue that is under researched is the data disparity that individuals with I/DD face especially within the State of Hawaii. There is an overall lack of data collected on and reported for this section of our community. This measure seeks to alleviate this issue in regard to health disparity data surrounding individuals with disabilities.

The Council appreciates that there is an appropriation amount to cover the cost of the report.

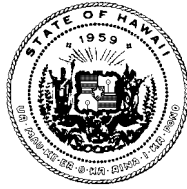
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB2919 SD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 22, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2919 SD1 – RELATING TO DISABILITY HEALTH DISPARITY.**

HEARING: Thursday, February 24, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this measure and defers to the State Council on Development Disabilities.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to require the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to submit a report focused on the health disparities experienced by individuals with disabilities in Hawaii to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2023. Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD1)

- (1) Requiring the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to submit a report focused on the health disparities experienced by individuals with disabilities in Hawaii to the Legislature, rather than the Department of Human Services;
- (2) Appropriating an unspecified amount of funds to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to compile and submit the report; and
- (3) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

The Department appreciates the SD1 amendment and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to be responsible for compiling the report on health disparities for people with disabilities. While DHS divisions of Med-QUEST and Vocational Rehabilitation have specific information on individuals with disabilities, they do not have data to identify

population-level differences in Hawaii between individuals with and without disabilities.

However, DHS supports the intent of this measure and will assist the State Council in ways that it can to compile the requested information.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2919, S.D. 1

February 24, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO DISABILITY HEALTH DISPARITY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2919, S.D. 1, requires the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) to submit a report to the Legislature focused on the health disparities experienced by individuals with disabilities in Hawai'i; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Health for SCDD to compile and submit the report.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18, and 19.

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18, and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

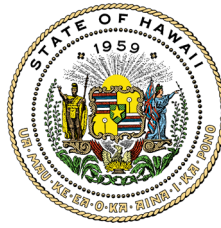
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18, and 19.
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18, and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



LATE

CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR

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STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2919 SD1
Relating to Disability Health Disparity**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATOR GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: February 24, 2022
10:00 AM

Room Number: 211
Via Videoconference

EOA's Position: The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health, supports SB2919 SD1, relating to Disability Health Disparity.

Fiscal Implications: This measure appropriates an unspecified amount for SFY 2022-23 for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to compile and submit a report focused on the health disparities experienced by individuals with disabilities in Hawaii to the Legislature.

Purpose and Justification: This measure requires the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to submit a report focused on the health disparities experienced by individuals with disabilities in Hawaii to the Legislature before the regular session of 2023.

Mr. Philip Ana is the Long-Term Care Disability Specialist in the Executive Office on Aging. In the two years of the pandemic our aging and disability populations have experienced much difficulty in receiving medical treatment for COVID-19. I have read numerous national reports about this issue.

1 The aging and disability populations face barriers, stigma, and discrimination when trying to
2 access health care and services. Before we can improve access to health care and health-related
3 services, we need to better understand the barriers and inequities that the aging and disability
4 populations face.

5 **Recommendation:** The EOA supports SB2919 SD1 which will allow the State Council on
6 Developmental Disabilities to gather information on health disparities to improve the way in
7 which we care for our aging and disability populations.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



LATE

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 24, 2022

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senate Bill 2919, Senate Draft 1 – Relating to Disability Health Disparity

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2919, Senate Draft 1 Relating to Disability Health Disparity. This bill would require the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to submit a report on health disparities experienced by individuals with disabilities in Hawaii.

There is no doubt that on average, individuals with disabilities experience health disparities, and the pandemic exacerbated the disparity. This often results in a vicious cycle, where the disparity leads to deteriorating health and additional disabilities.

A report on the health disparities experienced by individuals with disabilities will assist in identifying where resources should be directed to support and improve the quality of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Pagano

for KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



William H. Farr
Executive on Aging

County of Hawai'i

OFFICE OF AGING

Aging and Disability Resource Center, 1055 Kino'ole Street, Suite 101, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3872
Phone (808) 961-8600 ♦ Fax (808) 961-8603 ♦ Email: hcoa@hawaiiintel.net
West Hawai'i Civic Center, 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Highway, Kailua-Kona 96740
Phone (808) 323-4390 ♦ Fax (808) 323-4398

February 23, 2022

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Support of SB2919, RELATING TO DISABILITY HEALTH DISPARITY
10:00 A.M., February 24, 2022, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference**

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Members of the **COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**:

The Hawaii County Office of Aging supports SB2919, relating to Disability Health Disparity. The passage of SB2919 will help set the groundwork for developing a baseline to determine the health, economic, and social disparities between individuals with disabilities versus those without. As an Aging and Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC) the health, economic, and social determinant data gathered will be useful as we plan future Information and Assistance needs in serving not only our aging population, but also to the disabilities community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2919.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William H. Farr".

William H. Farr
Executive on Aging
Hawaii County Office of Aging



An Area Agency on Aging

Hawai'i County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SB-2919-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:13:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nikos Leverenz	Testifying for Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) supports SB 2919, SD1, which requires the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to submit a report focused on the health disparities experienced by individuals with disabilities.

HHHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. The continued criminalization of those with behavioral health problems compounds their suffering and further jeopardizes their health and well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2919-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 5:51:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mark Vierra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB 2919. I am a father and guardian to my daughter, 22, who is severely developmentally delayed. We have found that it is very difficult to obtain competent medical care here. I have another daughter, 21, who is normal, and for her, getting medical care is easy. But for my other daughter who is delayed, the care she receives requires a lot of energy and makes it very difficult to get her the care she should be equally entitled to.

Any support you can give to improve medical care for those with developmental delays on the Big Island would be very appreciated.

Thank you-

-Mark Vierra

Kailua-Kona

LATE

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
RE: **SB2919 SD1 Relating to Disability Health Disparity**
HEARING: Thursday, February 24, 2022
Conference Room 211, 10:00 AM & Videoconference

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members,

My name is Aianna Wong, a Thompson School of Social Work student who was diagnosed with multiple chronic health illnesses at the age of sixteen. Thank you for the opportunity to *testify in support* of SB 2919 SD1 relating to disability health disparity. I am just one of countless people in Hawaii to suffer from a chronic health condition. I am only one statistic out of a huge percentage who has faced extreme discrimination, dismissive, and plain ignorance in and out of the medical field as a result of my gender, age, and race.

As a young Asian-American girl, I was told by many professional doctors, “you are just faking”, “just eat more vegetables”, or “you probably have anxiety, you are not sick.” When in reality, I suffered symptoms such as: extreme and chronic pain, fatigue, fevers, dizziness, nausea, hives, and fainting spells. Many years later, I have over ten diagnoses but I still struggle on a daily basis with finding the appropriate and needed support for my disability. I have to prove my disability wherever I go and advocate for myself, something I wish I did not always need to do.

I know first hand how much we can and need to improve in regards to disability education, access, funding, and programs. I am fortunate enough to have good health insurance and to afford the doctors that I needed. Yet, I have been dismissed by countless doctors, denied treatment, misdiagnosed, and suffered poor quality care for years. It has been a constant battle to find services that will not only believe me but help me. I can only imagine how difficult and frustrating it is for those who are more vulnerable than me such as those without health insurance, single parents who have children with disabilities, homeless families, etc.

My physical health was greatly affected the day I got sick, but my emotional and mental well-being took an even greater toll due to all the obstacles I had to face in the broken system. People in Hawaii need better healthcare, programs, and services to not only address but prevent health disparities. I am a walking testament of how our laws and services need to desperately change. I am just one story. Yet sadly, my story is not uncommon.

Thank you again for letting me support this bill and what it stands for. As a person who has seen and experienced injustices in regards to healthcare, I greatly appreciate your time, energy, and consideration.

Mahalo, Aianna Wong
aiannaw@hawaii.edu